

the essence of what Julio F. Mercado has meant to international law enforcement. His name is spoken with great respect and warmth wherever honest cops gather. He is truly a "cop's cop."

I am proud to stand in the halls of the United States Congress to recognize Julio F. Mercado for his superb service to this great nation. He is a role model for young Americans. He grew up in the D.E.A. and the D.E.A. grew with him. The success of this great law enforcement agency is the culmination of the efforts of men and women like Julio Mercado. His story is an outstanding example of how one man, who came from humble beginnings, can serve his country and his fellow man and can truly make a difference. Our country owes him and his family, a great debt of gratitude.

**JULIO F. MERCADO, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR,
DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION, U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

Julio F. Mercado began his law enforcement career with the New York Police Department, assigned to the 47th Precinct, in 1973. During that period, he worked with DEA as part of the Task Force. Mr. Mercado's employment with DEA commenced in 1979, with his assignment to the New York Field Division. During his tenure, he conducted nearly 700 undercover buys and had a 100% conviction rate. Mr. Mercado, who is fluent in the Spanish language, remained in New York until his assignment to San Juan, Puerto Rico, in 1984. He was promoted to Group Supervisor in 1987 and was transferred to the McAllen District Office, McAllen, Texas. In 1990, Mr. Mercado received his first Headquarters assignment and served as Staff Coordinator of the Heroin Investigations Section until 1992. Next, he was assigned to the Special Operations Division, where he served as the Deputy Chief. In 1995, Mr. Mercado was promoted to Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Caribbean Division, San Juan, Puerto Rico. During this assignment he became involved in many high-profile cases, as well as community drug education and prevention programs in Puerto Rico.

Mr. Mercado was selected as Special Agent in charge, Dallas Field Division, Dallas, Texas, on February 21, 1997, and reported on May 25, 1997. On November 2, 1999, Mr. Mercado was named Acting Deputy Administrator of the DEA and was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as Deputy Administrator on June 29, 2000. He was sworn in on September 12, 2000.

Mr. Mercado is a member of the Greater Dallas Crime Commission; the Texas Police Chiefs Association; the International Association of Chiefs of Police; the League of United Latin American Citizens, and the Texas Narcotics Officers Association. He attended John Jay College in New York, with a major in Criminal Justice.

Mr. Mercado and his wife, Elizabeth, have four children and four grandchildren.

**HONORING MR. JOHN YOUNGER OF
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE ON THE
OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT**

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John Younger of Nashville, Ten-

nessee, on the occasion of his retirement. John Younger's thirty-year career in education has fittingly culminated in his most recent position as headmaster at Franklin Road Academy (FRA). Younger has risen to the top of his profession both in the public and private school systems.

John Younger is well respected by his peers and former students as a master educator. In fact, Mr. Younger taught me as a student at Hillsboro High School. We've been privileged to work together over the years in many capacities. I consider him a good friend and mentor.

Younger earned a B.S. degree from Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) and a Master's of Mathematics and Educational Administration from George Peabody College. He is the Chairman of the Board of the Tennessee Teachers Credit Union and also chairs the Personnel Committee at Christ Episcopal Church.

Mr. Younger is a familiar face to students in Nashville. Beginning at the teaching level, he spent a number of years as an educator in the Davidson County Metropolitan School System teaching mathematics at both Hillsboro and Issac Litton High Schools, as well as coaching football, basketball and track.

His move to the administrative level came in 1965, when he was named assistant principal for Highland Heights Junior High School. In 1967 he became principal at Bellevue High School overseeing more than 750 seventh through twelfth grade students.

Due to his outstanding performances, Younger was recruited for the "central office" at Metro Schools, where he initially served as Supervisor of Mathematics. In this position, he developed the math curriculum, selected textbooks, assigned teachers, and coordinated staff development for the entire Metro School System.

Continuing with Metro Schools, Younger was named Director of Employer Relations, where he negotiated for all employees in the school system, developed personnel policies, and resolved grievances. In 1978, Younger became the Assistant Superintendent for Business Services where he was responsible for all business and financial activities of Metro Schools. Again climbing in Metro Schools, he was named Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services, accountable for school programs involving 67,000 students before retiring from the public school system.

However, Younger returned to education when approached by the Board of Trustees at FRA in 1994 to become the Director of Business and Finance. Soon after making the transition to Franklin Road Academy (FRA) he was asked to spearhead an effort to construct a new middle school and fine arts center. His time at FRA has proven extremely fruitful and produced much growth.

Further, he has been active in civic and community organizations, serving on the boards of the PENCIL Foundation, the American Heart Association, the East Nashville YMCA, and the Old Hickory Country Club. Additionally, he is past president of the Tennessee Association of School Business Officials.

John Younger has been recognized for his outstanding contributions to the educational

field numerous times by his peers. These awards include: Tennessee's Outstanding Achievement Award from Governor Ned Ray McWherter in 1992; Educational Administrator of the Year for Metropolitan Nashville Schools; Distinguished Service Award and Life Membership Award from the Tennessee Association of School Business Officials; and Distinguished Member Award from the Southeastern Association of School Business Officials.

Younger's wife Jessica is a teacher with experience in both public and private schools throughout Middle Tennessee. They have one daughter, Mary Clare, of Knoxville.

Although John Younger is a man of stature in the community, he is never too busy to stop and listen to students or serve those around him. His life is a true success story—one of joy, humility, faith, friendship, and truth. I wish him the best in his retirement and all of his future endeavors.

**BLUE COLLAR GOVERNMENT
EMPLOYEES DESERVE BETTER**

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the 225,000 blue-collar employees who work for the federal government. These trade, craft, and labor employees are essential to our federal government's daily operation, yet we are not treating them with respect and dignity by paying them fairly under the Federal Wage System. Today I am introducing legislation, the Federal Wage Worker Pay Fairness Act of 2001, which addresses the fundamental problems with our federal wage system.

Blue-collar federal employees, a majority of whom work for the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), are key to the security and defense of our nation. They perform a range of duties critical to the success of military missions and the safety of our soldiers. They maintain our tanks and fighter planes, they repair ships and they handle munitions. It is by their sweat and hard work that we show our commitment to and support of our armed forces.

Wage grade employees in the VA are the men and women who work to fulfill America's promise to our veterans. Many of these workers are veterans themselves. They are the food service employees who prepare and deliver the nourishment veterans need to heal and recover from illness. They are the housekeepers who do the dirty and often hazardous work of maintaining a safe and clean hospital. They are the carpenters, mechanics, and electricians who keep the VA hospitals operating 24 hours-a-day, seven days a week.

The pay for wage grade employees is supposed to be set according to local prevailing rates—rates which compare to the same types of jobs performed by their non-federal counterparts. But for too long, federal employees have not been compensated at prevailing rates. They are not making a living wage. Many of the wage grade workers at the lower grades cannot afford the premiums on their federal health insurance plans. Some are even